GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
STEEL
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:534
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2001
IMPORT OF STEEL
DAHYA BHAI V. PATEL;RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had taken decision to abolish the Floor Price mechanism for the prime steel products keeping in view the interest of the producers, consumers, international obligations and overall impact on the economy;

(b) if so the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has now suddenly imposed the non-tariff barriers on the import of hot rolled coils and other products;

(d) if so, the reasons for changing the earlier decisions which has affected the employment of thousands of workers;

(e) whether the Government are aware that virtual ban on the import of steel products has promoted price fixation/cartelisation by six indigenous producers of hot rolled Coils, hitting the downstream industries and the entire economy; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government to make available steel at fair prices and allow its import only by the actual users?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY)

(a)to(f): A statement is laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (F) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.534 FOR 24.04 TABLED BY SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL, MP AND DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA, MP REGARDING IMPO STEEL

(a)&(b): The Government had taken a decision to withdraw the floor prices for the prime steel products in view of larger public interest. As per the Notification dated 01.11.1999 issued by the Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), the floor prices on prime steel products were to be withdrawn w.e.f. 01.01.2000. However, the Hon`ble High Court of Calcutta vide its judgement dated 16.02.2000 stayed the operation of this Notification to the extent it applied to Hot Rolled coils.

(c)&(d): The Government has not imposed any non-tariff barrier on the import of hot rolled coil and other steel products but has introduced a quality control mechanism in order to prevent import of sub-standard goods into the country. As per the Notification dated 24.11.2000 issued by the Director General of Foreign Trade, the import of 131 products including 32 steel items has been made subject to compliance of mandatory Indian quality standards.

(e)&(f): As per the existing Export-Import policy, imports and exports of steel items are freely allowed.